

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims

36.(Currently amended) A device for microbiological examination of a sample of liquid under pressure, having an intake body, a filtering membrane and a drainage body, said intake body having a reservoir, the reservoir having an endwall and a lateral wall, ~~in one wall of which~~ the lateral wall having a liquid input aperture ~~is made~~, said membrane closing said reservoir so as to form a chamber for liquid entering the chamber through the input aperture and exiting through the membrane, said drainage body having means of supporting said membrane on the opposite side from said reservoir and a liquid output aperture, said intake body and said drainage body having integrally moulded mutual locking means; comprising in that said membrane is gripped annularly at the periphery between a first member forming part of said intake body and a second member forming part of said drainage body with one out of said first member and said second member having an elastomer seal by means of which it comes into contact with said membrane, and in that said locking means are adapted to allow the opening of said device by requiring only a separation movement between said first member and said second member, said locking means having means of axial latching between the intake body and the drainage body, one out of the latter having at least one axially oriented latching tab while the other has means of receiving said latching tab, which extends projecting from the edge of a skirt forming part of that one out of said intake body and said drainage body which includes it.

37). (Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 ~~comprising~~ wherein the membrane is held exclusively on account of it being gripped annularly at the periphery between said first member and said second member.

38.(Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 ~~comprising~~ wherein the seal is moulded on to that one out of said first member and said second member which includes it.

39.(Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 ~~comprising~~ wherein the first member has said elastomer seal moulded to it.

40.(Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 ~~comprising~~ wherein the first member has said elastomer seal moulded to it and said first member forms a lateral wall of said reservoir of the intake body, said wall finishing at one end in an edge forming part of said seal.

41.(Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 ~~comprising~~ wherein the first member which has said elastomer seal moulded to it and said first member forms a lateral wall of said reservoir of the intake body, said wall finishing at one end in an edge forming part of said seal and a groove is made at the end of a rigid part of said lateral wall while said seal has a T-shaped profile whose longitudinal branch forms a rib inserted into said groove and whose transverse branch forms a cushion which is in contact with the membrane.

42. (Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 ~~comprising~~ wherein the first member which has said elastomer seal moulded to it and said first member forms a lateral wall of said reservoir of the intake body, said wall finishing at one end in an edge forming part of said seal and a groove is made at the end of a rigid part of said lateral wall while said seal has a T-shaped profile whose longitudinal branch forms a rib inserted into said groove and whose transverse branch forms a cushion which is in contact with the

membrane and there is a bevel between the rib and the cushion on the external side, while, on the internal side, the rib and the cushion are connected by a straight surface.

43.(Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 wherein comprising the first member which has said elastomer seal moulded to it and said first member forms a lateral wall of said reservoir of the intake body, said wall finishing at one end in an edge forming part of said seal and a groove is made at the end of a rigid part of said lateral wall while said seal has a T-shaped profile whose longitudinal branch forms a rib inserted into said groove and whose transverse branch forms a cushion which is in contact with the membrane and said cushion has two annular lips.

44.(Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein said latching tab is connected to the remainder of that one out of said intake body and said drainage body which includes it, by a breakable zone.

45.(Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein said latching tab is connected to the remainder of that one out of said intake body and said drainage body which includes it, by a breakable zone and said breakable zone is situated in the region of a dihedral in one of the surfaces of said latching tab.

46.(Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein said latching tab is connected to the remainder of that one out of said intake body and said drainage body which includes it, by a breakable zone and said breakable zone is situated in the region of a dihedral in one of the surfaces of said latching tab and said surface having a dihedral is situated on the internal side of the latching tab.

47.(Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein one out of said intake body and said drainage body which has means of receiving said latching tab has a wall oriented transversely and provided with an opening through which the latching tab can pass, means being provided for preventing the withdrawal of the tab once it has been pushed right into the opening.

48.(Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein one out of said intake body and said drainage body which has means of receiving said latching tab has a wall oriented transversely and provided with an opening through which the latching tab can pass, means being provided for preventing the withdrawal of the tab once it has been pushed right into the opening and said means for preventing the withdrawal of the latching tab are provided on the latter and on said wall.

49.(Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein one out of said intake body and said drainage body which has means of receiving said latching tab has a wall oriented transversely and provided with an opening through which the latching tab can pass, means being provided for preventing the withdrawal of the tab once it has been pushed right into the opening and said means for preventing the withdrawal of the latching tab are provided on the latter and on said wall and said means for preventing the withdrawal of the latching tab have, on said wall, a tooth oriented axially and bordering said opening and having, on said latching tab, a groove adapted to accommodate said tooth.

50.(Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein one out of said intake body and said drainage body which has means of receiving said latching tab has a wall oriented transversely and provided with an opening through which the latching tab can pass, means being provided for preventing the withdrawal of the tab once it has been pushed right into the opening and said transversely oriented wall is connected to a lateral wall extending on the opposite side from that one out of said intake body and said drainage body which has the latching tab, with the dimension in the axial direction of said lateral wall being greater than the dimension in the axial direction of the latching tab.

51. (Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein a notch is made in said lateral wall at the level of said opening, to make it possible to press on said latching tab.

52. (Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein the intake body which has the latching tab, and in that it is the drainage body which has the means of receiving said latching tab said means of receiving being a hole formed in a transversely oriented annular wall connected at one end to a first axially oriented wall and at the other end to a second axially oriented wall.

53. (Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein one out of said intake body and said drainage body has a number of said latching tabs.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein said locking means comprise exclusively said axial latching means.

56. (New) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein said drainage body has a circular table provided at its centre with means of supporting said membrane and having, around said support means, a wall having a surface situated facing said elastomer seal, which forms part of said intake body, said membrane being squeezed between said surface and said seal.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Canceled)

59. (Canceled)

60. (Canceled)

61. (Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein said drainage body has a circular table provided at its centre with means of supporting said membrane and having, around said support means, a wall having a surface situated facing said elastomer seal, which forms part of said intake body, said membrane being squeezed between said surface and said seal and the external diameter of said circular table corresponds substantially to the internal diameter of a skirt included in said intake body, said skirt encircling said circular table.

62. (Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein said drainage body has a circular table provided at its centre with means of supporting said membrane and having, around said support means, a wall having a surface situated facing said elastomer seal, which forms part of said intake body, said membrane being squeezed between said surface and said seal and the external diameter of said circular table corresponds substantially to the internal diameter of a skirt included in said intake body, said skirt encircling said circular table and areas of extra thickness for wedging are provided between said circular table and said skirt.

63. (Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein said drainage body has a circular table provided at its centre with means of supporting said membrane and having, around said support means, a wall having a surface situated facing said elastomer seal, which forms part of said intake body, said membrane being squeezed between said surface and said seal and said drainage body has a skirt disposed in a step with respect to said circular table.

64. (Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein said drainage body has a circular table provided at its centre with means of supporting said membrane and having, around said support means, a wall having a surface situated facing said elastomer seal, which forms part of said intake body, said membrane being squeezed between said surface and said seal and said drainage body has a skirt disposed in a step with respect to said circular table and said skirt has means of latching with said intake body.

65. (Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein said drainage body has a circular table provided at its centre with means of supporting said membrane and having, around said support means, a wall having a surface situated facing said elastomer seal, which forms part of said intake body, said membrane being squeezed between said surface and said seal and said drainage body

has a skirt disposed in a step with respect to said circular table and said skirt of the drainage body has at least one notch adapted to allow the placing of a drainage syringe.

66. (Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein said output aperture of the drainage body is in the continuation of the internal passage of a coaxially disposed output pipe.

67. (Currently amended) A device according to Claim 36 wherein comprising said output aperture of the drainage body is in the continuation of the internal passage of a coaxially disposed output pipe and said drainage body has, around said output pipe, an annular rib tapering towards its end.

68. (Currently amended) A method for draining a device according to Claim 36 comprising wherein said output aperture of the drainage body is in the continuation of the internal passage of a coaxially disposed output pipe and said drainage body has, around said output pipe, an annular rib tapering towards its end and it is placed on a vacuum flask with said output pipe engaged in the central hole of the stopper of said flask and said annular rib resting on this stopper.